

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 52

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Kathy Farmer Ratz on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Farmer Ratz is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ratz served with distinction for 30 years as a teacher with the Hamilton County school system, teaching the last 24 years of her career at Ooltewah Middle School; and

WHEREAS, continuing in the proud family tradition of education, Ms. Ratz followed in the footsteps of her role model and father, Stan Farmer, a former coach and principal at Chattanooga Central, where the football field is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ratz took a much deserved retirement at the end of December 2006; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious tenure at Ooltewah Middle School, she taught English, speech, drama, math and nonfiction studies, was actively involved with numerous committees and programs, and sponsored many extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ratz received her bachelor's and two master's degrees from Middle Tennessee State University, as well as an educational specialist degree and;

WHEREAS, she has been an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ratz has truly served as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, even in retirement, Ms. Ratz continues to serve others as a teacher of the visually impaired; and

WHEREAS, she is an active and important part of the Hamilton County community and the teaching profession, having participated in numerous worthy organizations, including Delta Kappa Gamma International Honor Society for Women Educators, American Association of University Women, the Tennessee Geographical Alliance, Inc., and lending her support to The Experiment in International Living and the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ratz has been on the receiving end of numerous awards and recognitions, including an Ambassador Scholarship from World Learning, Inc., Lyndhurst Teacher's Award, Aid de Camp to Governor Ned McWherter's staff, Tennessee Ambassador of Good Will through the Office of Governor Phil Bredesen, and inclusion on an extensive list of *Who's Who* awards; and

WHEREAS, she exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Farmer Ratz truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; and

WHEREAS, throughout Ms. Ratz's estimable career, she has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues, and her students and their parents alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Ms. Ratz our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, salute her exemplary career spent in service to the children of Tennessee, and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.